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SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

MESSAGES RECEIVED ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY
OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE STRUGGLING PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA
(SOWETO DAY)

(Issued in accordance with the decision taken by the Special
Committee at its 657th meeting, on 16 June 1992)

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I. MESSAGES FROM MEMBER STATES

BANGLADESH

Message from H.E. Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister
of Bangladesh

[Original: English]

On this auspicious occasion marking the sixteenth anniversary of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, the Government and the people of Bangladesh join me in reaffirming our unequivocal support and solidarity with the people of South Africa in their struggle for freedom from discrimination and oppression and realization of justice and human dignity.

In the backdrop of epochal changes now under way in South Africa, we commemorate the day this year with a sense of optimism. We hope that the momentous reforms initiated and the continuing political dialogue which has been mandated by the just-concluded referendum held there, and the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) will set in motion irreversible trends towards a multiracial democratic order in South Africa.

Bangladesh, in paying a tribute to the sacrifices of the people of South Africa, reaffirms its total support to their struggle for the realization of their fundamental goal of total and absolute eradication of the last vestiges of racism and the establishment of a truly multiracial and democratic society in which all shall enjoy rights of equal citizenship irrespective of race, sex, colour or creed.

BRAZIL

Message from the Government of Brazil

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the observance of the 1992 International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa - Soweto Day - the Brazilian Government reaffirms once again its utmost condemnation of all forms of racial discrimination, in particular the apartheid system, and its firm commitment to the upholding of the fundamental principle of equality of all men and women irrespective of their race.

The Brazilian Government expresses its hope that the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) will achieve its goal of leading the South African people to a multiracial democracy in which the values of brotherhood and equality prevail over those of hatred and racial prejudice and eliminate the hideous system of apartheid once and for all.

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The Brazilian Government looks forward to the day when a free, democratic and multiracial South Africa will join the countries in the South Atlantic region in the common endeavour of pursuing social justice, economic development and peace for the peoples of the region.

CHILE

Message from Mr. Enrique Silva Cimma, Minister for
Foreign Affairs of Chile

[Original: Spanish]

In observing the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, Soweto Day, the Government and people of Chile reiterate their full commitment to the total elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, particularly apartheid.

The Government of Chile is following developments in South Africa with keen interest and hopes that they will lead, through peaceful negotiations, to the dismantling of the odious system of apartheid and hence to a non-racial democracy free from discrimination and based on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Government of Chile expresses its sincere wishes for the success of your leadership of the Special Committee against Apartheid, whose objectives are steadily being achieved, and reiterates its firm support for the initiatives and actions being taken to bring about the total elimination of apartheid.

CUBA

Message from Mr. Isidoro Malmierca, Minister for
Foreign Affairs of Cuba

[Original: Spanish]

This year, as we commemorate the Soweto massacre, the apartheid system is gradually being dismantled in South Africa. The determined efforts of the democratic forces in South Africa have played a crucial role in this process, as has the unrelenting pressure exerted by the international community through the application of sanctions against the Pretoria regime under various resolutions adopted by the United Nations.

However, we cannot overlook the fact that even today government forces are fomenting and manipulating acts of racial violence in South Africa which not only result in many casualties but also hamper and delay the process of negotiation that may lead to the total elimination of apartheid. This process

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must include the liberation of all political prisoners, the return to their homeland of all exiled South Africans, the ending of violence and the promulgation of a new constitution based on the principle of one man, one vote.

The struggle against apartheid must therefore be continued at both the domestic and international levels. In this context, all Member States have an imperative and urgent duty to uphold the United Nations sanctions - economic and military - imposed against the Pretoria Government as well as the arms and oil embargo.

Allow me to reiterate that the people and Government of Cuba stand prepared as always to continue providing all possible moral and material support to our brother South African people, until its noble and legitimate aspirations are finally achieved.

CYPRUS

Message from Mr. George Iacovou, Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Cyprus

[Original: English]

This is an appropriate occasion for the international community to reaffirm its unwavering commitment to the complete eradication of apartheid and the establishment of a democratic, non-racial society in South Africa.

In observing today the supreme sacrifice of those young people, which rose to break the bonds of racism and apartheid, we wish to reiterate our commitment to the lofty ideals for which they gave their lives, and to renew our determination in the struggle to bring justice for the people of South Africa.

It is with great satisfaction that we note the positive developments for reform in South Africa as steps in the right direction towards a complete elimination of apartheid.

Cyprus, while welcoming recent developments, still has the view that the international community should maintain the necessary pressure on South Africa, to ensure the complete eradication of apartheid and the transformation of South Africa into a non-racial, democratic and unified country, in which all its people will be able to enjoy their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights without any discrimination based on colour or race.

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EGYPT

Message from H.E. Mr. Hosni Mubarak, President of the
Arab Republic of Egypt

[Original: Arabic]

It gives me pleasure, on the occasion of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, to express Egypt's appreciation of the outstanding endeavours made by your august Committee to make the conscience of the world aware of the grievous injustice of the policies and practices of racial discrimination and of the heroic role which is being played by our African people in South Africa to obtain their legitimate rights in their own homeland and to secure their enjoyment of all political, economic and social rights without discrimination on grounds of colour or race.

The struggle of the people of South Africa has thrust their cause onto the African and international stage, and the first signs of their success have begun to appear, as witness by the realization on the part of the South African Government of the importance of getting rid of the laws of racial discrimination and its engaging in serious dialogue with the majority in order to give a new and just form to a democratic and united regime in South Africa. Important as this is, however, it is only the first step towards rectification of errors which have lasted for decades. There is no doubt that there are still many problems and difficulties that must be tackled and overcome before this honourable struggle yields the benefits that are hoped for.

We in Egypt, both people and Government, also look forward to the elimination of the phenomenon of odious violence which is tearing apart the one people of South Africa and is impeding their progress towards democracy and development. We also have great hopes that the wisdom and good will of all South Africans will usher in a democratic and just system that will open a new page in the political, economic and social life of the people of South Africa and enrich the store of human experience in the African continent and the international community.

GHANA

Message from H.E. Flt. Lt. J. J. Rawlings, Head of State
and Chairman of the Provisional National Defence Council
of Ghana

[Original: English]

On this solemn occasion of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, Soweto Day, I wish to extend, on behalf of the people and Government of Ghana, and on my own behalf, warm felicitations to the Special Committee against Apartheid, the gallant

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majority black population of South Africa, who has struggled against and borne the brunt of the heinous policy of apartheid, and indeed the entire international community for the remarkable and concerted struggle waged over the years to end the most repugnant and abominable form of racism and racial discrimination the world has ever known - apartheid. This occasion calls for a collective renewal of our commitment and solidarity as well as support for the legitimate struggle of the majority population of South Africa towards a positive change in the existing political and other structures of that country. The Committee is assured of the continued and unflinching support of the people and Government of Ghana in all its endeavours and undertakings.

As we observe this day which is also dedicated to the memory of those unarmed South African students and children massacred by the forces of apartheid for daring to protest their inferior status, the Government and people of Ghana wish to reaffirm their profound conviction that racism and racial discrimination are highly despicable social and political phenomena, the practice of which manifests itself in the gross violation of human rights and negation of the spirit and purpose of the United Nations Charter. While we condemn such acts of racism, we wish on this occasion to salute the gallant but oppressed people in South Africa who have struggled in the face of untold hardship and suffering to seek equality and social justice in all aspects of human endeavour.

The people and Government of Ghana, recalling the magnitude of the struggle of the people of South Africa against apartheid, the sorrow and pain that racism and racial discrimination have caused mankind and determined that apartheid should be eradicated at all costs in South Africa, do rededicate ourselves to the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples all over the world, against racism and racial discrimination. We reaffirm our faith in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the principles and objectives of the United Nations.

In that regard, we are gratified by the attempt at a purposeful change towards a non-racial and democratic society in South Africa. We, however, are concerned about the spate of violent clashes, particularly, in the black townships which, if left unchecked, may wreck the peace process under way and threaten security. We regret the stalemate in the negotiations being undertaken under the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) and hope that further concerted effort will be made by all the parties in the negotiations to iron out existing differences and continue with the negotiating process aimed at overcoming the remaining obstacles towards the building of a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa.

We note that the current situation in South Africa imposes a heavy moral duty on the United Nations and the entire international community. Accordingly, we must together strive to lend the much-needed assistance to the struggling majority in South Africa and work collectively to bring about a quick and durable settlement of the problems created by the system of apartheid and racism. We hope all freedom-loving people the world over will join together to make that realization possible.

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The people and Government of Ghana wish on this occasion to salute once again the heroes of the struggle against racial intolerance and apartheid. We reiterate our unflinching support for the noble efforts of the struggling people of South Africa as well as the inspiring commitment of the Special Committee against Apartheid until a non-racial and democratic government is established in South Africa.

GUINEA

Message from H.E. General Lansana Conte, President of Guinea

[Original: French]

As the international community observes the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa on 16 June, Guinea, as a founding member of the Special Committee against Apartheid, cannot shirk the responsibility imposed on it by the crucial decision taken by the General Assembly in 1976. We therefore pay homage to the young people who were cut down in Soweto in 1976 by the bullets of a racist and oppressive regime. Sixteen years after these sad events, our country reiterates its faith in the equality and worth of human beings which alone can foster a non-racial and constitutional democracy in South Africa. We reaffirm our solidarity with the struggling people of South Africa and reiterate our commitment to the recommendations of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa of 14 December 1989, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution S-16/1.

GUYANA

Message from H.E. Mr. Hugh Desmond Hoyte, S.C.,
President of Guyana

[Original: English]

The observance this year of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the tragic events of the past as they occurred in the town of Soweto on 16 June 1976 and to acknowledge the contribution of those who died, and the many others who fought for a South Africa free from the destructive consequences of apartheid. We should not forget their role in opening up the way for change by calling the attention of the world to the cruelty of that inhuman system.

Through the efforts of the majority black population, led by Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress, and with the support of the international community, we have now begun to witness the dawning of a new era of purposeful progress towards a non-racial democratic society.

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The repeal of several acts of apartheid legislation has been the first sign of hope for a democratic and non-racial South Africa. But, even as we herald these positive developments, we continue to be deeply concerned about the recurrent violence which threatens a return to the dark days of the Soweto uprising. The pressure of the international community must therefore be maintained to ensure a quickening of the pace of the negotiating process.

Guyana remains convinced that the struggle of those who lost their lives in Soweto was not in vain. We reaffirm our support for all efforts to eradicate apartheid in South Africa and look forward to the day, very soon, when this system will be totally dismantled.

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

Message from H.E. Mr. Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, President
of the Islamic Republic of Iran

[Original: English]

The International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa provides us an opportunity to declare once more our support for the struggle of this nation to eliminate racial discrimination and injustice, and to express our appreciation for efforts made to help the oppressed people of South Africa to this end.

Support for this struggle will unwaveringly continue until the last remnant of the inhuman thought of racism will be eliminated. Inspired by the sublime teachings of Islam and beliefs in the necessity of struggle against any form of racism, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran unfalteringly and willingly supports, as it has done in the past, the efforts of the South African people to attain their inalienable rights.

We firmly believe that in addition to its contrast with the Charter of the United Nations, human rights and democracy, racial discrimination is an unforgivable crime against the dignity, honour and nobility of human beings and contrary to their fundamental rights. It is, therefore, the common responsibility of freedom-seeking people of the world to support the original residents of that country in their struggle against racism.

The solidarity of the people of South Africa as well as the international efforts will certainly lead to eradication of racial discrimination and oppression. While hoping for their rapid success, I pray to the Almighty for the prosperity and glory of this combatant and resolute people.

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

Message from Mr. Ibrahim Mohammed Al-Bishari, Secretary
of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for
Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation of the
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

[Original: Arabic]

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has consistently taken part with the international community in the annual observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa. This is for many reasons, particularly the fact that this Day falls on the same date as the tragic events which occurred in the area of Soweto in 1976, when the police of the racist regime opened fire on school pupils who were demonstrating in support of their demand to be allowed to be taught in the language of their choice rather than in the language imposed upon them.

Last year and the year before, we observed the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa at a time when that region was witnessing developments which led, among other things, to the abolition of many aspects of the apartheid regime. This year, as in the two preceding years, the observance is taking place at a stage at which South Africa has witnessed a number of developments, one of the most conspicuous being, for example, the referendum conducted among the white population, the outcome of which was the approval, by a majority, of the constitutional reform plan. In spite of the fact that these developments constitute the beginning of a significant change in favour of a non-racist society, it would be premature to claim that such changes are adequate to ensure a real change and that they provide reliable guarantees that the foundations of apartheid will be dismantled. This is particularly so if they are viewed in the light of the present situation in which many political prisoners still remain in internment camps, restrictions are placed on the return of many exiles and acts of violence continue in black townships, stirred up by all available means by the racist regime. A cause of still greater anxiety are the obstacles that have arisen to the progress of the negotiation process within the framework of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA). These obstacles may have consequences that not only jeopardize what has been achieved so far in dismantling the bases of the apartheid regime but also threaten to impede any effort towards the final abolition of that regime and the establishment of a society in which the entire population of South Africa enjoys equal rights.

The international community is committed to the total abolition of the apartheid regime in South Africa and, through the declarations and resolutions that it has adopted, has defined the means of achieving that objective, including pressures and sanctions. Events clearly confirm that the sanctions and pressures have played a major part in bringing about the changes that have occurred. In order to ensure that the process of change continues until the stage defined by the international community is reached, continued pressures and the maintenance of sanctions are a decisive factor. It is thus of

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considerable importance for the international community to continue with that approach until the demands of the majority of the people of South Africa are met, namely the establishment of a unified, democratic and non-racist society in South Africa.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is committed to the implementation of international resolutions concerning the apartheid regime and has shared in efforts to put an end to it. In this connection, Libya has supported liberation movements in South Africa so as to reinforce their stand and their determination in the face of racist procrastination and practices. Today, on the basis of its firm positions and consistent solidarity, Libya reaffirms that it will remain a strong supporter of the struggle of the people of South Africa to realize their hopes of eliminating all manifestations of racial discrimination and establishing a free, democratic and non-discriminatory State of South Africa.

The Special Committee against Apartheid has always made a point of taking every opportunity to encourage the people of South Africa in their struggle and to display the continued assistance and support of the international community for their efforts to obtain their rights. Permit me therefore, Your Excellency, to take this opportunity to commend the Special Committee, under your able chairmanship, not only on having arranged this Day but also on the role it is performing, within the framework of the efforts of the United Nations and of the international community as a whole, to abolish the universally condemned racist regime.

MADAGASCAR

Message from Mr. Barijaona Randriamandimby, Minister for
Foreign Affairs of Madagascar

[Original: French]

On this International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, the international community pays a tribute to all South Africans who have made the supreme sacrifice for the cause of freedom and equality.

The developments in South Africa in recent months hold out great hope for the establishment of a non-racial and democratic regime in that country.

The Malagasy people reaffirms its full support for and steadfast solidarity with the South African people in its struggle to put an end to the persistent inequality and exclusion in that country.

We take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Special Committee against Apartheid for its efforts to eliminate the last vestiges of racial discrimination.

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PAKISTAN

Message from H.E. Mr. Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif,
Prime Minister of Pakistan

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, I take the opportunity, on behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan, to reaffirm our full support to the people of South Africa in their struggle against apartheid and racial discrimination. Pakistan is proud to have supported the liberation struggles of many nations in Africa, particularly in southern Africa. Moved by our firm conviction in the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, we remain steadfast in our resolve to extend full political and diplomatic support to the valiant people of South Africa for the attainment of their legitimate rights.

The inhuman policies of apartheid have constituted a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The practice of apartheid perpetuated unjust inequalities in the social and cultural fabric of that country. We therefore regard the developments of the past two years in South Africa as steps in the right direction. The overwhelming vote in support of reforms in the recently held referendum in South Africa should encourage President F. W. de Klerk to take the necessary steps for the complete eradication of apartheid and the introduction of a genuine multiracial democracy based on one man, one vote.

Pakistan supports the negotiations under the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) towards the final abolition of apartheid and the establishment of a democratic order in South Africa. We also support the resolutions and declarations of the United Nations and other international organizations such as the Commonwealth and the Non-aligned Movement, regarding the phased lifting of sanctions. In our view the pressure exerted by the international community on South Africa for abolishing apartheid should be maintained until such time as the changes introduced in that country become irreversible and there is concrete evidence of their implementation.

We are confident that the day is not far when the just struggle of the brave people of South Africa to overthrow the last remnants of apartheid and their noble efforts to achieve majority rule will be crowned with glorious success.

PANAMA

Message from Mr. Julio E. Linares, Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Panama

[Original: Spanish]

Today, on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, the Government of the Republic of Panama would like to congratulate the Special Committee against Apartheid.

The commendable work done by the Special Committee has succeeded in rousing the conscience of the States Members of the United Nations and has made the cause of the South African people a matter which obligates States to take up the fight for freedom, equality, democracy and justice for all human beings.

The Government of Panama welcomes the progress recently achieved by the South African Government in the referendum of 17 March 1992, in which the white South African population endorsed the reform process undertaken by President de Klerk, thereby making it possible for the negotiations with the leaders of the African National Congress of South Africa to continue.

The Government and people of Panama hope that the South African leaders will be able to find a peaceful and negotiated solution to the present situation that will pave the way for the rebuilding of a new, multiracial and fully democratic South Africa.

PERU

Message from Mr. Oscar de la Puente Raygada, President
of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Peru

[Original: Spanish]

On the occasion of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, the Government of Peru renews its unswerving support for the process aimed at the final dismantling of the odious system of apartheid.

In taking up the cause of peoples who seek progress through equality, the Government of Peru, in keeping with the Peruvian people's rejection of any form of racial discrimination, reaffirms its commitment to the inalienable right of the South African people to build a free society.

The people and Government of Peru have been following recent political developments in South Africa closely and welcome the progress achieved in dismantling apartheid. In this regard, Peru reiterates its hope that these

developments will soon usher in a united, non-racial and genuinely democratic South Africa within the framework of comprehensive and peaceful negotiations.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Message from Mr. A. Kozirev, Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation

[Original: Russian]

This year, the celebration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa takes on particular significance. For the first time, the Day is being observed in a situation in which there has been tangible progress in the dismantling of apartheid and in the advance towards the democratization of life in South Africa.

In Russia, this change for the better in the historical development of the Republic of South Africa is attributed to the efforts of the Government, the African National Congress and other political organizations of that country. We welcome the ongoing process of talks within the framework of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa and hope that it will lead to the creation of a society in which human rights and freedom for all, irrespective of race, sex, religion and political opinion, will be guaranteed.

I wish the Special Committee against Apartheid success in its work and am confident that it will assist in supporting the processes whereby the Republic of South Africa will be transformed into a single, non-racial and democratic State.

SENEGAL

Message from Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of
the Republic of Senegal

[Original: French]

In commemorating the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, those countries that love peace and justice seek not only to reaffirm their unwavering support for this noble cause but also to pay a solemn tribute to the worthy sons and daughters of that country who have bravely and resolutely paid with their blood or their lives and continue to do so in order that freedom, equality and democracy may be restored there.

This day of commemoration, which I fully support and whose significance I appreciate, affords the international community an opportunity to assess its efforts to help bring about a democratic, egalitarian and non-racial society in South Africa, to measure the impact of those efforts and to identify any further action that should be taken.

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In this regard, I am especially pleased to note the substantial progress that has been made over the past few months in South Africa, particularly as this progress is the fruit of the good will, persistence and political maturity of government authorities and many social organizations in South Africa, which have firmly committed themselves to constructive negotiations.

While Senegal welcomes and encourages this positive development, it would like to remind the international community of the need to provide greater support for the initiators of such developments in their firm resolve to overcome the many difficult obstacles that continue to face them.

Violence is the most challenging of these obstacles because, as the South African newspapers have indicated recently, it stems from action which is organized and widely encouraged by certain elements of the South African armed forces and police.

I should therefore like to appeal to the international community to be more vigilant in order to deter those who use all kinds of intimidation to sabotage the progress made so far; this will make the ongoing process irreversible.

Stopping at such an auspicious moment would not only reward those who are stubbornly fighting to maintain the odious system of apartheid but would also do an injustice to the men of good will who have been selflessly working to create a society in which all men, regardless of their social or racial background, can express themselves as equals and freely decide their own future.

Today, more than ever before, our common duty is to ensure that the sacrifices of those who have laid down their lives in the struggle against apartheid is not in vain and that the price of their blood is the establishment in South Africa of a just, democratic and free society.

On behalf of the Government of Senegal and on my own behalf, I should like to express the hope that the observance of this day will lead to the realization of all the legitimate aspirations of the black majority in South Africa and crown the unceasing efforts made to that end by the international community.

I should like to extend warm and sincere congratulations to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Special Committee against Apartheid and all the non-governmental organizations whose invaluable support for the noble and just cause of the black population of South Africa has never wavered.

SURINAME

Message from H.E. Mr. Runaldo R. Venetiaan, President
of Suriname

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the solemn commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, Soweto Day, I take great pleasure in extending to you, on behalf of the Government and people of Suriname, my sincere appreciation for your continued dedication to the freedom and dignity of the majority of the people of South Africa.

The support of the Government and people of the Republic of Suriname for the struggle of the people of South Africa, is well known. We firmly believe that all efforts should be continued towards eradication of apartheid and the adoption of a new constitution which shall guarantee democracy, fundamental human rights, equality, social progress and peace.

THAILAND

Message from Mr. Pongpol Adireksarn, Minister for
Foreign Affairs of Thailand

[Original: English]

On this solemn occasion to commemorate the sixteenth anniversary of the Soweto massacre, I wish to reiterate once again, on behalf of the Government and people of Thailand, our solidarity with the South African people in their just struggle for fundamental equal rights and complete elimination of apartheid.

Thailand believes that all conflicts should be resolved through peaceful negotiations. We are encouraged thus far by the progress made between the South African Government and the African National Congress. It is our hope that the steps being taken by every party concerned to bring down the barriers to the eradication of apartheid will continue unabated and remove the obstacles impeding the progress towards a new South Africa and the prosperity of its people.

We also wish to urge all South African people to refrain from the use of violence and intimidation to display a spirit of cooperation for the success of these negotiations so that lasting peace and national reconciliation will finally be achieved in new South Africa.

TUNISIA

Message from H.E. Mr. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President
of Tunisia

[Original: French]

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa whose aim is the total elimination of the apartheid system and the establishment of a democratic, united and non-racial society, I should like, on my own behalf and on behalf of the Government and people of Tunisia, to pay a tribute to the United Nations for its tireless efforts on behalf of this noble cause.

Ever since the International Day of Solidarity was instituted by the General Assembly, the struggle of the South African people, backed by an international community that is increasingly determined to ensure universal respect for human rights, has led to remarkable progress in the dismantling of apartheid and the holding of constitutional talks aimed at establishing a democratic and non-racial society.

The collaborative efforts among the South African authorities and all the parties and organizations in South Africa, particularly the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC), have already laid the foundations for the establishment of an interim government and the birth of a new South Africa based on law, equality and democracy. Tunisia fervently hopes that the work undertaken by the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) will continue uninterrupted and that it will be vigilantly and resolutely supported by the entire international community.

Tunisia, which has always identified itself with the South African people's struggle for justice and equality, salutes the memory of the Soweto martyrs and hails their sacrifice for the establishment of a united, democratic and non-racial State in South Africa.

UGANDA

Message from the Government of Uganda

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, we in Uganda wish to reaffirm our commitment and continuing support to the heroic and struggling people of South Africa in their efforts to eliminate the abominable policies of apartheid. We will not rest on our laurels until a new constitution is adopted and a democratically elected non-racial government has been installed. We look forward to the day when the abhorrent policies of apartheid is no more.

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While we wish to welcome and support the prevailing atmosphere of political dialogue and the historic importance of CODESA to the process of peaceful change in South Africa, we must not at the same time lose sight of the fact that the current ongoing negotiations are not being conducted among equals.

We take it upon ourselves as a moral obligation to continue to support those forces who are negotiating with those who still monopolize all the instruments of power. To this end, we call upon the Government of South Africa to commit itself to accelerate the process of change which all peoples around the world but specifically the great majority of the South African people clearly wish to see achieved.

VENEZUELA

Message from General Fernando Ochoa Antich, Minister for
Foreign Affairs of Venezuela

[Original: Spanish]

As we mark yet another anniversary of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, Venezuela reaffirms its support for the legitimate struggle of the South African people aimed to establish a free and democratic society in which decisions are the result of genuine participation of people of all races as equals. Venezuela also vigorously condemns all practices and systems of racial discrimination.

Today's commemoration affords us the opportunity to reiterate our support for the negotiations taking place within the framework of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa. We thus welcome the decision of the parties to pursue their discussions in order to solve the problems that have arisen and thereby lay the basis for the establishment of the democratic and non-racial society to which the South African people have aspired for so long.

The long struggle of the South African people and the vast campaign of the international community have led to substantial changes in South Africa. We must therefore strive to maintain our political pressure and remain vigilant until the process of democratization in South Africa is completed.

II. MESSAGES FROM INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

LAO COMMITTEE FOR PEACE, SOLIDARITY AND FRIENDSHIP

[Original: French]

On the occasion of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, Soweto Martyrs Day, on 16 June 1992, the Lao Committee for Peace, Solidarity and Friendship wishes to express its traditional solidarity with the people of South Africa, repressed by the apartheid regime.

After 16 years, the historic event in Soweto has become and will forever remain a symbol of the determination of the heroic people of South Africa to struggle until apartheid has been totally eliminated.

We recognize that genuine peace and stability in southern Africa can be achieved only after the system of apartheid has been completely dismantled and South Africa has become a united, democratic and non-racial country. We therefore believe that all necessary measures must be envisaged to put an end to this inhuman regime in the interest of all peoples in southern Africa, elsewhere in Africa and throughout the world.

We believe that all people are equal and have the same rights to human dignity and respect regardless of their colour, race or beliefs. We also believe that all men and women have the right and the duty to participate in the running of their country as equal members of the society to which they belong. No individual or group of individuals has the right to rule others without their consent. The apartheid system seriously violates all the fundamental and universal principles of human rights.

We are firmly convinced that the Special Committee against Apartheid, with the broad support of the international community, will be able to mobilize and intensify further the global campaign in order to destroy this criminal system as soon as possible.

Once again, the Lao people, together with justice-loving peoples throughout the world, fervently hopes that the people of South Africa will achieve final victory in its sacred struggle to bring about the total dismantling of apartheid.

KOREAN COMMITTEE FOR AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, Soweto Day, the Korean Committee for

Afro-Asian Solidarity would like to extend its support to and solidarity with the people of South Africa in their struggle for the total abolition of apartheid and establishment of a free, non-racial and democratic South Africa.

We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our strong demand that all the United Nations resolutions and decisions adopted against apartheid should be fully and immediately implemented.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION

[Original: English]

On 16 June 1976, the guns and armoured cars of South Africa's riot police killed hundreds of black children, most in their teens and many under the age of 10, who were peacefully protesting the imposition of Afrikaans as the language of instruction in their schools. The Women's International Democratic Federation, which unites millions of women in 117 affiliates around the world, joins with the Special Committee against Apartheid in remembering the hundreds of children who were killed and the thousands arrested in that first bloody week in Soweto and in the uprising of youth that followed all over the country.

Today, on the sixteenth anniversary of that bloody massacre, even as the international community recognizes some progress in dismantling apartheid, not enough has irreversibly changed as state-sponsored violence threatens the birth of a non-racial South Africa. Since February 1990, over 5,000 people have lost their lives, hundreds of thousands have been injured and countless families have seen their homes and belongings torched.

The de Klerk Government still seeks to preserve white minority power by any means necessary. The deadlocked conclusion of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa Two in addition to the revelations of the complicity at the highest state level of destabilizing violence designed to cripple and thwart genuine moves towards a non-racial democratic South Africa are alarming.

The international community must continue to monitor developments and support the continuation of those sanctions whose economic ramifications will force Pretoria to move speedily ahead towards true political democracy. To do less would mock the sacrifice of the young lives lost on 16 June 1976 and betray the aspirations of the living.
